HT

John Carter Brown.

I have seen no other copy of this book.
It throws much new light upon the obscure traditions mentioned by Trumbull.

This precious volume, to say nothing of its great rarity & interesting matter, should be preserved as one of the earliest Specimens of Printing in New York

H. Stevens

London. Feb. 26. 1846.

Jany. 1922. This is still the only known copy.

W. C. F.

JOHN CARTER BROWN

AN ACCOUNT OF

Several Paſſages and Letters between his Excellency *Benjamin Fletcher*,

Captain General and Governour in Chief of the Province of *New-York*, Province of *Pennſilvania*, Country of *New-Caſtle*, *&c.* Commiſſionated by their Majeſties under the great Seal of *England*, to be their Lieut. and Commander in chief of the Militia, and of all the Forces by Sea and Land within their Majeſties Collony of *Connecticut*, and of all the Forts and places of Strength within the ſame.

AND

The preſent Adminiſtrators of the Laws in the Collony of *CONNECTICUT*, in the Month of *October*, 1693.

ON the 13th of *October*, his Excellency departed from *New-York*, towards *Connecticut*, in order to the Publication of their Majeſties Letters Patents for, and taking upon him the Command of the Militia in that Collony.

The 14th day he arrived at *Millford* Bay, and writ this Letter from on board, to Governour *Treat* at *Millford*:

SIR; Millford *Bay*, *October* 14. 1693.

IN Obedience to their Majeſties Commiſſion, directed to me for the Command of their Militia of the Collony of *Connecticut*, I am come to publiſh the ſame, and to take that Truſt upon me; and in the firſt place have thought fit to communicate their Majeſties Royal Pleaſure to you, as a Perſon that has acted in chief Rank of the Government, and diſcharged that Truſt with a fair Reputation: I have ſent this Gentleman their Majeſties Secretary for the Province of *New-York*, to acquaint you with what may be further ſaid upon this occaſion, and to deſire your directions, how I may beſt ſteer my ſelf for the publiſhing of their Majeſties Commands, to render them moſt effectual for the preſent Service.

I am, SIR, Your Humble Servant,

BEN. FLETCHER.

Hereunto his Excellency received no Anſwer.

The 15th day his Excellency arrived at *New-Haven*, and his Horſes not coming, on the 17th he wrote this following Letter to the Governor and General Court of *Connecticut*, ſitting at *Hartford*.

Gentlemen; *New-Haven, October* 17. 1693.

I Landed at this place ſome-what late Sabbath day at night; my Horſes and other conveniences being aboard another Sloop, and not yet come up, has detained me longer here than I deſigned or deſired: Being informed your General Court is now ſitting, I am willing to communicate their Majeſties Command to you while you are together, conceiving it will moſt conduce to their Majeſties ſervice, and therefore I deſire you will not adjourn your ſelves till I can come up to *Hartford*, which ſhall be without loſs of time, ſo ſoon as my Horſes arrive, which I hourly expect. I am, Gentlemen,

Your Humble Servant, Ben. Fletcher.

To which Letter his Excelleney had this Anſwer.

To his Excellency Benjamin Fletcher, *Capt. General and Governour in chief of their Majeſties Province of* New-York, &c.

Excellent SIR; *Hartford, October* 18. 1693.

YOur Letter of the 17*th* Inſtant, at one of the Clock in the afternoon, about 2 of the Clock this Morning came to our Governours hand, who hath acquainted us with the Receipt of yours, and of the occaſion which hath detained your Excellency longer in thoſe parts than you deſired or deſigned; as alſo, that your Excellency deſires that we would not adjourn our ſelves till you can come up to *Hartford*. In anſwer to which your Excellency may be pleaſed by theſe to be informed, That our general Court hath been together upon their Majeſties ſervice ever ſince *Thurſday* laſt, and are about diſpatching the Affairs under hand, as we may, but ſhall not break up till *Fryday* next, and ſhall be ready to wait upon your Excellency in General Court, to hear or receive from you what you have to acquaint us with, that may be for their Majeſties Service, and the publick good of their Subjects. Which with Reſpects and Service to your Excellency, is all at preſent from your humble Servants, *The Governour and General Court of their Majeſties Collony of* Connecticut. By their Order, ſigned by me, *John Allyn*, Secretary.

The ſame day his Excellency wrote to them as followeth.

To the Governour and General Court of Connecticut, *at* Hartford.

Gentlemen; *New-Haven, October* 19. *at* 11 *clock in morning.*

THis day about 10 a clock I had the favour of yours. Finding the wind continue Northerly, I can get no news of my Horſes, ſo that I cannot propoſe of getting up to *Hartford* to morrow. I therefore deſire

desire that you will please to adjourn to this place, where a very short time will allow me to lay before you such things as I have to offer for their Majesties service. I am, Gentlemen, *Your humble Servant*,

Ben. Fletcher.

And in Answer to that Letter his Excellency had this Return.

Excellent SIR; *Hartford, October* 20. 1693.

YOurs of the 19th instant we have received, and in answer thereunto we return, We cannot, under our present Circumstances, adjourn to *New-Haven*, and have chose rather, (tho' we have waited several days to attend your Excellency in General Court) to resolve to continue our general Court by adjournment till *Tuesday* next about ten of the clock. Which is all the needful at present from your humble Servants, *The Governour and general Court*. By their Order, signed by me,

John Allyn, Secr.

His Excellency departed from *New-Haven* the 22th day in the Evening, and lodged at *Wallingford* that night.

The 23d day he arrived at *Hartford*. The next morning he went to the General Court then sitting, there published their Majesties Letters Patents, and left with them the following Memorial.

A Memorial to the Governour and General Court for the Collony of Connecticut, *sitting at* Hartford, *October* 24. 1693.

BEnjamin *Fletcher* their Majesties Capt. General and Governour in chief in and over their Majesties *Provinces of New-York, Pennsilvania, &c.* Gives in this Memorial, to which he desires a Reply, without loss of time, their Majesties Service calling for his immediate Repair to the Fronteers, &c.

He says, being come into this Collony with their Majesties Commission under their great Seal of *England*, to act as their Lieutenant and Commander in chief of the Militia, and of all the Forces by Sea and Land within their Majesties Collony of *Connecticut*, and of all the Forts and places of Strength within the same. Which Commission he does here produce, and expect a ready Complyance to it, from all their Majesties loving Subjects, that he may proceed to the execution of that Trust.

Ben. Fletcher.

Coll. *Bayard* and Secretary *Clarkson* were sent with this following Message.

Gentlemen;

WE are come from the General to acquaint you, that just now he received an Express, with Letters from *Albany*, which give him

an

an account of the weakneſs of that Garriſon, and the growing ſtrength of the Enemy.

We are further to acquaint you, That theſe delays of yours do very much hinder the neceſſary Affairs of their Majeſties here: His Excellency has no directions nor inſtructions from the King to make any applications to your ſelves; he has not publiſht his Commiſſion until he did it in this Court; nor could he ſuppoſe, neither will it be believed in *England* that an Engliſh Collony ſhould deny the Rights of their Proteſtant King.

The Letters from *Albany* do ſtill intimate, That they are apprehenſive that they will be attacked by the Enemy, and if that Poſt ſhould be loſt for want of your Complyance to their Majeſties Commiſſion, you may be ſenſible of what dangerous conſequence the ſame would be to your ſelves.

The *Jarſeys* are under the ſame Circumſtances with your ſelves, in reſpect of their Charter, yet have willingly ſubmitted to the Kings pleaſure and Right of the Millitia, who are commanded by his Excellency; for the Governour of that Collony acts there without the leaſt interruption: He calls Aſſemblies, makes Laws, raiſes Money, ordains and keeps Courts, only commands the Militia under his Excellency, who has not altered one ſingle Officer in that Collony.

Gentlemen, We are to conclude with the laſt thing his Excelleny gave us in charge, That the fatal Conſequences of your Proceedures, as it appears to his Excellency, will be repented by you and your Poſterity when 'tis too late: You are the only People in all the Kings Dominions that will venture to diſpute with our King, who is a Souldier, concerning that inherent Right of the Militia, ſettled upon the Crown by ſeveral Acts of Parliament, and cannot be aliened nor demiſed.

N. Bayard, M. Clarkſon.

The 26th day his Excellency received the following Paper from the General Court.

To his Excellency Benjamin Fletcher, *Captain General and Governour in Chief of their Majeſties Province of* New-York, &c.

IN Return to your Excellency's Demands of the Militia, of us their Majeſties general Court of their Collony of *Connecticut*, We ſay, That finding in your Excellency's Commiſſion no expreſs ſuperſeding of the Commiſſion of the Militia in our Charter, nor no Order to us from their Majeſties to ſurrender the ſame; and being ſenſible of the great Importance of this matter, and finding it in ſeveral main things which do need a particular Explication and Settlement, as we ſhall, God willing, manifeſt to their Majeſties, cannot but conceive it our Duty, both with reſpect to their Majeſties Service, and our own Peace and Preſervation in this time of War, to continue the Militia as formerly, till by our Agent, now ſent for *England*, we ſhall receive farther Orders from their Majeſties. And

And in Obedience to their Majesties gracious Letters, of *March* the 3d. 1692. we shall be ready upon all just occasions, to yeild Assistance to his Excellency Coll. *Benjamin Fletcher*, Esq; his Majesties Captain General and Governour of *New-York*, &c. and to the Commander there in Chief for the time being for the Defence of the said Province against the common Enemy, according to our Ability, and in proportion with our Neighbouring Collonies and Provinces, altho' we have already been out above five Thousand Pounds for the defending our Neighbours of *Albany* since the War began, besides the loss of Lives. And further, this Court does see reason to grant the sum of six hundred Pounds in Country Pay, out of our Country Rate, towards the Charge of maintaining the Garrison at *Albany*, onward of what shall be our Proportion of that Charge, in Obedience to Their Majesties Letter of the 3d of *March* last. By Order of the Governour and General Court of *Connecticut*, signed by,

Hartford, October 25. 1693. *John Allyn*, Secr.

And about two hours after his Excellency made this Return by Coll. *Bayard*.

To the Governour and General Court of Connecticut, *sitting at* Hartford, October 26. 1693.

Gentlemen;

I Have received your Paper, which is no Answer to my Memorial; for I do not demand the Militia from you, knowing very well, as you your selves do, That you have no right to it, it being settled on the Kings and Queens of *England* and their Successors, by several Acts of Parliament, and by no Power on Earth can be demised from the present Possessor of the Crown. But I have, in tender regard to this *English* Collony given in my Memorial to you, the present Administrators of the Government here, in expectation of your ready Compliance to their Majesties Patent, and your Assistance to me, being a stranger in these parts, for the more speedy and effectual execution of that lawful Commission, which is granted in Grace by their Majesties, as well for your Security and Defence, as the Assertion of their own Right, and this has in no part of their Dominions found a Rub or Contest.

I do therefore in their Majesties Names demand your Obedience to this Commission, as you will answer the Consequences that will ensue; and expect a speedy Reply in one of these two words, *Yes*, or *No*.

Ben. Fletcher.

By his Excellency Benjamin Fletcher, *Their Majesties Lieutenant and Commander in Chief of the Militia, and of all the Forces by Sea and Land within their Majesties Collony of* Connecticut, *and of all the Forts and places of Strength within the same.*

M. Clarkson, *Secretary.*

Coll. *Bayard* had also in Charge to deliver this Message.

Gentlemen;

I Am further to tell you from his Excellency, the General, That he is resolved to put their Majesties Commission in Execution, and immediately issue forth a Proclamation, shewing the method he has taken for the ease and satisfaction of their Majesties Subjects in this Collony, leaving the Militia in the same hands he found it. And I am also directed by his Excellency to make you, Governour *Treat*, a

tender of a Commiſſion from him, for the Command of all the Militia in this Collony. And alſo to acquaint this Court, That his Excellene has neither Power nor Intention to invade any of their Civil Rights, but that all things may run in the ſame Channel, with no alteration, but only your acknowledging the Power of the Militia an inherent Right in their Majeſties.

And I may aſſure you from his Excellency, That he will not ſet a foot out of this Collony till he ſees an Obedience paid to this Commiſſion, by all ſuch as are Loyal Subjects to their Majeſties, and will diſtinguiſh the reſt.

By his Excellency's Command,

N. BAYARD.

Coll. *Bayard* returning from the General Court, *&c.* acquainted his Excellency That they deſired a Copy of their Majeſties Letters Patents, and that they promiſed to make a ſpeedy Reply to his Excellency's Anſwer ſent by the aforeſaid Coll. *Bayard.*

His Excellency ordered Coll. *Bayard* and Secretary *Clarkſon* immediately to carry the Original Patent to the General Court, and to leave it with them for their peruſal, and withal to require them to cauſe it to be entred in the Publick Records of this Collony. Which Meſſage was accordingly performed. Whereupon Secretary *Allyn* made anſwer, That it could not be done whilſt the Court was ſitting; but ſeemed to be willing to do the ſame after the Court ſhould be broke up; and then promiſed to return the Original to his Excellency.

In the Evening, the following Paper was ſent to his Excellency from the General Court.

To his Excellency Colonol Benjamin Fletcher, *Eſq; Captain General and Governour in Chief of their Majeſties Province of* New-York, *&c.*

Excellent SIR; *Hartford, Octob.* 26. 1693.

YOurs of *October* 26. we have received, wherein your Excellency tells us, That you have received our Paper, which is no anſwer to your Memorial, *&c,* We have duely conſidered what we have received from your Excellency, and do return, That we have in our Anſwer to your Memorial, fully informed your Excellency of our Opinion of thoſe things you mentioned to us therein, which you may pleaſe to take as our Anſwer. Yet further, we ſay, That we agree with your Excellency, That the Inherent Right in the Militia belongs to their Majeſties, and that it is at his diſpoſe, and hath been ſettled upon us under the great Seal of *England,* and enjoyed by us the two laſt Reigns, and ever ſince our preſent Soveraign Lord and Lady, King *William* and Queen *Mary,* (whom God preſerve) came to the Crown; and lately, we receiv'd ſome directions from them, in order to the Improvement of the ſame, which we ſhall attend; and therefore our deſire is, That you would not interrupt us in our enjoyment of the ſame, till we have opportunity to underſtand their Majeſties further Pleaſure therein; which we truſt will be no prejudice their Majeſties Intereſt, and may be a good means to prevent future Inconveniencies.

By Order of the Governour and General Court, ſigned by me,

John Allyn, *Secretary.*

And the next day this following Memorial.

A Memorial from the Governour and General Court of Connecticut *Collony, To his Excellency* Benjamin Fletcher, *the 27th of October, 1693.*

Excellent SIR;

WE have, in our former to your Excellency, tendered you Six Hundred Pounds in Country pay, out of our Rate, towards the charge of maintaining the Garriſon at *Albany*, onward of what ſhall be our Proportion of that Charge. We deſire your Excellency's Anſwer, whether that be acceptable to you. But if you judge it more for Their Majeſties Service to have Men, we ſhall raiſe about fifty Men to aſſiſt in Garriſoning *Albany*, who we ſhall raiſe and ſend forth with what ſpeed we may, to continue there till the Spring, to the end of *March*, or firſt of *April* next. We crave your Excellency's Anſwer, who are, *Your Humble Servants, The Governour and General Court of* Connecticut.

By their Order, ſigned, John Allyn, *Secr.*

To which his Excellency made this Anſwer.

His Excellency's Anſwer to the Memorial of the Governour and general Court of Connecticut *Collony, the* 27 *of* October, 1693.

Gentlemen;

I Have your Memorial of this day before me, and in anſwer thereunto I thik fit to tell you, I am Their Majeſties Lieutenant and Commander in Chief of all the Military Forces in this Collony. And that by my Commiſſion, publiſh'd in your General Court, all other Military Commiſſions are ſuperſeded, and actually void. When you think fit to acknowledge the Power of this Patent, which has never found a Diſpute by any of their Majeſties Subjects in any part of their Dominions, I ſhall then readily proceed to conſult with you of ſuch Methods, for the ſettling the Militia here, as may be moſt for the eaſe of Their Majeſties Subjects, and the Security and Safety of the Fronteers of *Albany*, and this Collony. In the mean time I conceive my ſelf obliged to purſue the Execution of their Majeſties Letters Patents, to me directed, till I find an open Violation of their Majeſties Right by Force of Arms.

By Commands of their Majeſties Lieutenant and Commander in Chief of the Military Forces in this Collony,

M. Clarkſon, *Secretary.*

Upon the delivery of the above Memorial, the general Court diſperſed, and returned no Anſwer.

During his Excellency's ſtay at *Hartford* he had twice Conference with Governour *Treat*, Secretary *Allyn*, Mr. *Pitkin* and Mr. *Stanley*, who attended his Excellency at his Lodging. His Excellency having heard what they had to ſay, anſwered their ſeveral Arguments, in particular to their Allegations, That they had enjoyed their Militia the two laſt Reigns, and ſince their preſent Majeſties came to the Crown, ſaid, *Gentlemen,*

0554

Gentlemen, You cannot ſay you had the Power of the Militia in the late Reign, Sir *Edmund Andros* being received and owned your Governour, from whom you received Commiſſions, under him you acted, and ſwore Allegiance to that Government.

Nor can you truly ſay, you had the Power of your Militia under their preſent Majeſties, Sir *William Phipps* having a Commiſſion under the great Seal for that Truſt, which is ſuperſeded and nulled by expreſs words in this Commiſſion to me.

And then concluded thus:

You are permitted by your Charter, in caſe of eminent Danger, to arm and array the Subjects of this Collony, but I do not find you are impowered to give Commiſſions and keep up a ſtanding Militia.

I do therefore require you, Coll. *Treat*, to give Obedience to this Commiſſion, and I do tender you the chief Command of all the Militia in this Collony, under my ſelf.

Then his Excellency publiſhed his Proclamation.

A true Copy, Examined and allowed to be Printed, by I. Clarkſon, *Secretary.*

Printed and Sold by *William Bradford*, Printer to their Majeſties, King *William* and Queen *Mary*, at the Bible in *New-York*, 1693.

D693
A172o

DB
N567
1693
15
1-SIZE